United Nations system CEB/2005/2

Chief Executives Board for Coordination

2 December 2005

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Second regular session of 2005
New York, 28 October 2005

Summary of conclusions

I. Introduction

1. The fall 2005 session of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 October 2005.

2. A private meeting of CEB members, chaired by the Secretary-General, was held in the morning, followed by the regular session in the afternoon.

3. At the private meeting, the Secretary-General reviewed recent political developments with regard to Iraq following the constitutional referendum, the Middle East, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Latin America. The Director-General of the World Trade Organization briefed the Board on the prospects for the next meeting of the Doha Development Round scheduled for December in Hong Kong, China. On a proposal from the Secretary-General, the Board adopted a statement expressing the support of the organizations of the system for the timely conclusion of the Doha Round (see annex). The Board also discussed food security in Africa and natural disaster response, especially the importance of preparedness and capacity. The Directors-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations briefed the Board on the current situation with regard to the avian flu and ongoing efforts to contain its spread.

4. The present summary covers the outcome of the second regular session of CEB for 2005, held at United Nations Headquarters.

5. The Board adopted the following agenda for its regular session:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Implications of, and follow-up to, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit.
3. Other matters:
   (a) Action on the reports of the High-level Committees:

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(i) High-level Committee on Programmes, tenth session, 6-8 October 2005;

(ii) High-level Committee on Management, tenth session, 10-11 October 2005.

(b) Dates of the CEB 2006 spring and fall sessions.

6. The Secretary-General welcomed, on behalf of CEB, the new members of the Board: Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank; Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Antonio Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees; Karen Koning AbuZayd, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; Kemal Dervis, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; and Supachai Panitchpakdi in his new capacity as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. On behalf of CEB, the Secretary-General congratulated Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the Agency itself for winning this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

7. CEB paid tribute to the late Joke Waller-Hunter, former Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for her contribution as a passionate champion of sustainable development and expressed its condolences to her family.

8. CEB decided to postpone consideration of administrative questions until its spring 2006 session.

II. Implications of, and follow-up to, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit

9. Executive heads expressed their views on the implications of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1) for their organizations and what measures the system could take to advance the follow-up to the Summit. The Board had before it a background note entitled "United Nations system follow-up to the 2005 World Summit", which analysed the Outcome under three broad headings: development; peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law and humanitarian assistance; and management reform.

A. Introduction by the Chairman

10. In his introduction, the Secretary-General stressed that the 2005 World Summit Outcome should be seen as a call to action for Member States, civil society and other stakeholders and the United Nations system as a whole. Its implications for the United Nations system were clear: the system had been challenged to be more effective, to be more efficient across the breadth of its agenda and to demonstrate greater coherence. The bar had been set high. The proposals before the Summit involved far-reaching steps that added up to the most comprehensive reform

package in its history. Given how much Member States were asked to do, it was not surprising that there had not been consensus on certain items.

11. Member States had yet to reach agreement on reforming the Security Council, despite general agreement that change was necessary. On the environment, the Summit did not break as much new ground as had been hoped, despite the clear threat and the solid scientific consensus on climate change. It also took no action on disarmament and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The lack of across-the-board progress should not, however, obscure the significant gains that had been achieved.

12. This was particularly true in the case of development, which, for the majority of Member States, is the most important area. The Summit served as the trigger for significant commitments that the system had been seeking for many years on debt relief, quick-impact projects, developing country plans for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and donor plans for reaching the 0.7 per cent aid target by 2015. A main outstanding issue was trade. The December Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in Hong Kong, China, would be crucial in this context. Gains made in the development field presented Member States with the important task of strengthening the Economic and Social Council as a more effective policy forum for following up on the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and for advancing coherence in development policy.

13. Another success of the Summit was the breakthrough on the responsibility to protect. This was a major advance in international norm-setting that the United Nations system had been advocating for years and which could enable the international community, through the United Nations, to use appropriate means in accordance with the Charter to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

14. Another very encouraging step the Summit had taken was the first clear, unqualified condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. The General Assembly now faced the task of concluding a comprehensive convention within a year. The Secretary-General expressed his readiness to strongly support those efforts and to update the anti-terrorism strategy he had outlined earlier that year in Madrid.

15. The Summit's decision to establish a new Peacebuilding Commission filled a large institutional hole, since there was no international institution specifically devoted to peacebuilding as opposed to peacemaking and peacekeeping. The new Commission was meant to bring in all relevant actors, promote local and international coherence and maintain attention when the media spotlight shifted elsewhere. The Secretary-General indicated that Member States wanted to see the Commission, as well as the support office and fund, up and running by the end of 2005. It should be possible to meet this timetable, since negotiations among Member States, and the Secretariat's own planning, were well advanced.

16. The Summit had also agreed to establish a new Human Rights Council and to double the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights over the next five years. This would make it possible for the Office of the High Commissioner to take important steps towards advancing human rights, including by increasing its presence in the field.

17. The newly established Democracy Fund, designed to help countries seeking to establish or strengthen democracy, had been endorsed by the Summit. With pledges from 15 countries totalling more than $42 million, this Fund had gotten off to a good start. There had also been important pledges to strengthen the main humanitarian emergency fund, which would enable United Nations agencies to respond more quickly and effectively.

18. Finally, the Summit had supported the direction of the managerial reform proposals advanced by the Secretary-General, including steps to strengthen oversight, streamline the budget process and increase transparency. The Secretariat was moving forward with the creation of an independent ethics office, a new whistleblower policy and a new management performance board. Existing financial regulations and human resources rules were being reviewed, with a view to developing a more flexible business model. Mandates that were more than five years old were also being reviewed, as requested by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General expressed his determination to make good use of this opportunity to update and re-prioritize the entire programme of work of the United Nations and to eliminate outdated activities. This, in turn, would make it possible to finalize a detailed proposal for a one-time staff buy-out and to establish a staffing profile reflecting the Assembly's new priorities. Taken together, these and other steps would help the United Nations become more effective, efficient and accountable.

19. The Secretary-General informed the Board that earlier in October he had reported to Member States on his workplan for the next several months, setting out what would be done by the end of 2005 and what would happen during the first quarter of 2006 and beyond. This follow-up work fell into four broad clusters of activity:

- Institutional innovations
- Oversight/audit arrangements
- Financial regulations and human resources rules
- System-wide coherence

20. The fourth cluster was of particular importance to CEB. Member States had called for greater policy and operational coordination and coherence, particularly at the country level. The Secretary-General was called upon to revert to them with proposals for more tightly managed entities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and environment. The Secretary-General informed CEB that the intention of the drafters of this proposal was that a small, distinguished team of outside personalities would take a fresh look at how the system could pull its operational work more tightly together in each of these three areas at both the Headquarters and country levels. This posed a range of coherence issues that needed to be addressed collectively.

21. The Secretary-General pointed out that that work could not be rushed nor held to the deadline of the first quarter of 2006 or earlier, as the other clusters were. The process would need to be inclusive, with ample opportunities for discussion and input. The Secretary-General would consult with Member States on how the 2005 World Summit Outcome follow-up in this area might be organized, following consultations with the CEB membership.

22. The Secretary-General concluded by stressing the enormous expectations that were now focused on the United Nations system and its leadership by Member States staff and, most of all, the peoples of the world. While the United Nations system could be proud of its work to date, for example, in its intellectual leadership and determined advocacy in putting the Millennium Development Goals on the map, the challenge now was very concrete. CEB needed to bring the United Nations system — its experience, field network, resources and technical expertise — truly together, into a coherent and cohesive whole. The political momentum and related commitments generated by the Summit had given the United Nations system a window of opportunity. It must seize this opportunity and prove capable or else watch others take its place.

B. Briefing by the Chairman of the High-level Committee on Programmes

23. The Chairman of the High-level Committee on Programmes briefed CEB on the Committee's consideration, at its tenth session, held in Frascati, Italy, from 6 to 8 October 2005, of the implications of the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the United Nations system.

24. The 2005 World Summit Outcome was a sound platform for renewed engagement by the international community in providing multilateral solutions to issues of development, peace and security and human rights and the rule of law. He noted the commitment made by Member States to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and credibility of the United Nations system and the system's ability to deliver.

25. To deliver as a system and achieve results meant that all capacities — normative, analytical and operational — must be harnessed. Mention was made in this regard of the need for coherent system-wide support for countries in revising or formulating national development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; helping developing countries make optimal use of the pledged substantial increases in official development assistance and debt relief; harnessing the potential of trade liberalization; and addressing natural and man-made disasters.

26. The CEB report entitled "One United Nations — Catalyst for Progress and Change", which was transmitted to the President of the General Assembly by the President of the Economic and Social Council in the lead-up to the 2005 World Summit, identified three areas for fuller work by the system: deepening understanding and better managing knowledge; achieving an inclusive, purposeful mobilization of all resources and capacities; and increasing transparency and accountability.

27. On the overall issue of system-wide coherence, the Committee had emphasized that the issues of development, peace and security and human rights must be tackled in an integrated manner and that the main horizontal themes — sustainable development, human rights and gender — must be mainstreamed in the policies of all organizations.

28. Member organizations of the Committee had also suggested that the Outcome be placed before their governing bodies as a basis for more coherent and coordinated follow-up action by both Member States and the United Nations system.

29. The Committee had flagged the possibility of developing a road map, with appropriate indicators and milestones, for the system's follow-up to the Outcome. It had already begun to reflect on priorities for its programme of work in the immediate post-Summit period.

30. As to the system's contribution to the development of proposals for more tightly managed entities in the field of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, the Committee underscored the need for its members to be proactive both in interpreting the provision and in participating actively in the relevant consultative processes.

C. Chief Executives Board for Coordination discussion

31. In the ensuing discussions, several CEB members stressed the relevance of the 2005 World Summit Outcome for the work of their organizations and outlined the steps they were taking to contribute to its follow-up. They noted with satisfaction that the Outcome not only reaffirmed the goals and commitments in the Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and the internationally agreed development goals emanating from the United Nations summits and conferences, but also highlighted the importance of new provisions in the Outcome concerning elements that were at the centre of the work of many organizations of the system.

32. In the development field, those elements included: rural and agricultural development; productive employment and decent work; science and technology, particularly information and communication technology and early warning systems for natural hazards; reproductive health; slum prevention and slum upgrading; investments; and migration and development. The need for employment creation was emphasized in the light of the growth in unemployment in Latin American countries and many other countries. It was also pointed out that the inclusion of reproductive health in the Summit Outcome reflected recognition of the importance of ensuring equal access to reproductive health as a means of reaching the Millennium Development Goals.

33. Of special significance was the strong reaffirmation by Member States of their commitment to achieving the objectives of "Education for all", achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and ensuring environmental sustainability.

34. Several CEB members noted with satisfaction the renewed emphasis in the Outcome on eradicating poverty and promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development. They welcomed the strong reaffirmation of the commitment to the global development partnership agreed in Monterrey, Mexico, at the International Conference on Financing for Development the need for a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round and the advances made on debt relief and aid. An integral element in this partnership should be the mobilization of resources, particularly untied voluntary contributions, for the United Nations system's technical assistance programmes. Equally emphasized was the need for organizations of the system to strengthen collaboration with the private

sector and civil society and forge strategic partnerships with multilateral and bilateral entities.

35. Also noted were the new opportunities presented by advances on aid and debt to step up the system's efforts in support of developing countries. Emphasis was placed on coherent system-wide support for the Outcome's provision relating to comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and for the new mandate assigned to the Economic and Social Council as the principal United Nations body for assessing and monitoring progress in the implementation of those goals.

36. On the subject of the environment, the need was underlined to integrate the key issues — climate change, natural disasters, energy, freshwater, water and sanitation, production and consumption patterns, chemicals and hazardous wastes, oceans and seas and coastal zone management — within a development framework and to ensure a coordinated response by the system.

37. The suggestion was made that the Committee might examine the possibility of elaborating a system-wide strategy on the issue of climate change in the light of a third World Climate Conference to be convened in the period ahead. On a related matter, reference was made to UN-Water as an effective inter-agency body that should be used more fully on integrated water and flood management. Consideration should also be given to setting targets and objectives for reducing the impact of natural disasters, such as by halving the number of casualties.

38. With regard to the Outcome's chapter on peace and collective security, human rights and the rule of law and humanitarian assistance, executive heads noted the importance of the system contributing to a new security consensus; advancing the concept of human security; recognizing the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; mainstreaming the issue of human rights and strengthening the human rights machinery; and scaling-up efforts to fight crime and combat terrorism. The key importance of adopting a comprehensive convention on terrorism and elaborating effective counter-terrorism strategies at the international, regional and national levels were equally stressed. Reference was made in this context to the new protocols to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation recently adopted by the International Maritime Organization. The new protocols provided a legal basis for the arrest, detention and extradition of alleged terrorists when a ship is suspected of being involved in activities that may lead to — or have led to — a terrorist attack. Incidents of piracy and hostage-taking off the coast of Somalia feeding terrorist activities were cited as cases in point. In the field of civil aviation, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate had fielded joint missions to assess Member States' compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) relating to threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

39. Disappointment was expressed at the lack of reference to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in the 2005 World Summit Outcome in the light of existing and new challenges in this field. Despite this, IAEA continued to pursue its work on verification and called for increased rights of inspection. It asked Member States to adhere to the additional protocol to their safeguards agreements with the IAEA. The

Agency intensified its activities to detect, prevent and take remedial action against nuclear terrorism and continued its investigation of the global black market for nuclear materials and technology. It has also proposed a multinational approach to the use and control of nuclear technologies involving assurances of the supply of fissile material for use in nuclear reactors and a moratorium on the construction of new facilities for their enrichment and reprocessing. IAEA has also welcomed the "Norwegian initiative" as a way forward for the international community in dealing with disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

40. On management reform, it was noted that the Outcome, while primarily addressed to the Secretariat, contained elements that were relevant for other organizations of the system as well. A number of executive heads outlined the management reform measures under way in their organizations along the lines of the Outcome. CEB thanked the Secretary-General for providing information on measures to strengthen the management of the Secretariat and stressed the importance of information-sharing and CEB involvement where system-wide issues were concerned.

41. Executive heads welcomed the Outcome as a clear statement on the vital importance of multilateral cooperation and the crucial role of the United Nations system. CEB, in accordance with its mandate, will pursue all matters in which system-wide coordination and coherence are involved, including:

(a) Developing proposals for strengthened management and coordination of operational activities, particularly in relation to the 2005 World Summit's call for more tightly managed entities in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. With regard to the latter, CEB was informed of the Secretary-General's plan to set up a small team of outside experts to have a fresh look at how the United Nations system could pull its operational work more tightly together in these areas. The importance of consultations and collaboration in pursuing the related work within an inclusive and participatory process was stressed;

(b) Fully utilizing the High-level Committee on Programmes, in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Group, for advancing policy and operational coherence, both at headquarters and in the field. CEB members noted that policy and operational coherence are mutually reinforcing. In this context, they stressed the crucial importance of harnessing the system's capacities and resources, including those organizations that have no resident representation at the country level, and called on the Committee to actively pursue work on this issue;

(c) Drawing on the CEB report entitled "One United Nations — Catalyst for Progress and Change" in elaborating a system-wide approach to ensuring coherent and coordinated follow-up of the Outcome;

(d) Encouraging organizations of the system to bring the Outcome to the attention of their governing bodies for their information and as a contribution to greater policy coherence in the coordinated follow-up of the Outcome;

(e) Providing support for the strengthened role of the Economic and Social Council, particularly in relation to the holding of annual ministerial-level substantive reviews to assess progress in reaching the internationally agreed development goals and the convening of a biennial high-level development cooperation forum.

42. The high-level Committee on Programmes was requested to give priority attention to the system's follow-up to the Outcome, in the light of the above discussions and relevant recommendations, in its own report and to periodically advise the Board of progress.

43. CEB members were informed by the United Nations that the proposed composition and terms of reference for the team of outside experts mentioned in paragraph 20 above would be communicated to them.

III. Other matters

A. Action on the reports of the High-level Committees

1. High-level Committee on Programmes, tenth session, 6 to 8 October 2005

44. The Chairman of the High-level Committee on Programmes briefed the Board on the outcome of the Committee's tenth session, held from 6 to 8 October 2005.

45. The Secretary-General noted that the General Assembly is scheduled to undertake in 2006 its first comprehensive review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the least developed countries. He urged members of CEB to be actively involved in its preparatory process and requested the Committee to bring the Board up to date on the state of inter-agency preparations at its spring 2006 session.

46. CEB took note of the report of the Committee and its work programme.

2. High-level Committee on Management, tenth session, 10 and 11 October 2005

47. The Board expressed its appreciation to David Waller, Deputy Director General of IAEA, for his vital support for the High-level Committee on Management since its inception and for his able chairmanship of the Committee's tenth session.

48. The Secretary-General noted that the model of the High-level Committee on Programmes, whereby a member of CEB acts as chair, has worked well and suggested that the same model be followed in the case of the High-level Committee on Management. In that light, he had asked Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, whether she was prepared to serve in that capacity for the next biennium and she had accepted to do so. He also proposed — and CEB concurred with — the designation of Denis Aitken, Chef de Cabinet in the Office of the Director-General of WHO, as Vice-Chairman of the High-level Committee on Management for the biennium 2006-2007.

49. CEB noted that the report of the High-level Committee on Management on its tenth session was in the process of being approved and decided to act on the report by correspondence.

B. Dates of Chief Executives Board for Coordination 2006 spring and fall sessions

50. CEB confirmed the dates of 7 and 8 April for its 2006 spring session, to be held in Madrid at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization.

51. With regard to the date of its 2006 fall session, CEB recalled its decision to hold its fall sessions in the last week of October and decided that the exact dates would be subject to consultations.

52. CEB paid tribute to Carlos Magariños, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), whose term of office was ending in December 2005, for his valuable contributions to UNIDO and the work of CEB.

Annex

Statement of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the multilateral round of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda and the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference (Hong Kong, China, 13-18 December 2005)

We, the Executive Heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, reconfirm our support for the Doha Development Round, which has placed development at the heart of the multilateral trading system. We are resolved to work closely with the World Trade Organization to ensure the success of its forthcoming Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, as a stepping stone towards the conclusion of the round in 2006.

International trade as an engine for economic growth is a key element in the complex development agenda. A successful and timely conclusion of the Doha negotiations, producing positive and balanced results and contributing towards a better insertion of developing and least developed countries in the world trading system, will help raise their living standards, reduce poverty and make a substantial contribution to meeting the goals for global development established by world leaders at the 2005 World Summit as well as at recent United Nations conferences.

The Doha Development Agenda negotiations should result in enhanced market access, in particular for goods and services of interest for developing countries, thus promoting diversification into new and dynamic sectors in goods and services; stimulating increased participation in global production and value chains; and generating employment. Furthermore, updating the trade rules will contribute to ensuring a more level playing field.

In a broader sense, a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system can substantially contribute to development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development.

In order to achieve these goals, the forthcoming Ministerial Conference must result in significant progress, particularly in the crucial areas of the negotiations, so that the Round can be completed by the end of 2006. We appeal for political commitment from all participants to this end. Major developed countries must fully exercise their responsibilities and leadership role in order to bring about meaningful progress and trade-opening in areas of interest to developing countries, especially in agriculture, non-agricultural products and trade in services.

Meaningful "aid for trade" packages would go a long way in enabling developing countries, especially the least developed countries, to meet adjustment costs, build trade-related infrastructure and supply capacity in order to benefit from opportunities that would be opened up by the Doha Round. This is therefore an important complement to the World Trade Organization negotiations to which we also pledge our support.

In less than six weeks, ministers will gather in Hong Kong, China, in an effort to guide the Round towards its successful conclusion by the end of 2006. We urge all participating Governments to take the necessary political decisions so that

consensus can be identified, gaps narrowed and forward momentum injected into the negotiating process.